

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2005. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 are pending, claim 17 being amended and claims 18-19 newly added hereby. No new matter is added.

Claim 17 was objected to for informalities.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Berton et al (US 2004/0143644 A1).

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The presently claimed invention relates to automatic routing and rank configuration for search queries in information retrieval systems, for example in a meta-search of web pages. In a non-limiting example, queries are first divided into types, for example navigational or informational. Navigational queries relate to finding a particular page, whereas informational queries relate to finding specific information wherever it is located, and queries may also be classified into other types. Ranking parameters are then chosen for a number of search engines according to the query type. Next, routing to indices available on each search engine is selected. Separate indices may be available, for example, for 'anchor' terms in a page and for the page itself, but other types of indices may also be available. The search results for each search engine are then combined and displayed in a web browser, for example.

OBJECTIONS

Claim 17 was objected to for informalities. Accordingly, claim 17 has been amended as suggested in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2004/0143644 A1 to Berton et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention as claimed in claims 1-17 was conceived prior to November 11th, 2002, and constructively reduced to practice by filing the present application on September 15th, 2003, with due diligence from before the effective date of the Berton et al application to at least the date of constructive reduction to practice of the present invention. Declarations under 37 CFR § 1.131 to that effect are filed herewith.

The Berton et al application was filed on April 1st, 2003 and claims priority from provisional application 60/441,404 filed on January 21st, 2003, and is therefore not prior art against the present invention, so the rejection cannot be sustained.

The contributions to the invention by Ronny Lempel had previously failed to be claimed. This omission was made in error and without deceptive intent. New claims 18 and 19 have been added to rectify this error. No new matter is added thereby, as support can, for example, be found in the specification at ¶ [0023]:

[0023] It should be noted that the preferred embodiment discloses a broad case wherein only two query categories are described: one for navigational queries and one for information queries. However, in addition to classifying a query to a query category, a different methodology can be used to calculate a rank configuration. For example, the calculation of these parameters could also be done using a function which interpolates a value in between the query categories, which results in a more gradual selection of ranking parameters. For instance, this function could decide that a query is 30 % navigational and 70 % informational. The parameters would be calculated accordingly. This leads to a more fuzzy generation of ranking parameters. In this case, a query would have a probability associated with each query class. As an example, for three query classes A, B, and C, a query 'q' can have A:0.8, B:0.15, and C:0.05, where the sum of probabilities is always 1.

As Berton et al is not prior art against the invention of claims 1-17, and new claims 18 and 19 are dependent from claims 1 and 12 respectively, claims 18 and 19 are also allowable, even though Lempel's contribution was conceived later than the relevant dates.


SUMMARY

As has been detailed above, none of the prior art references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

This response is being filed with a request for extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the extension fee, as well as any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 09-0441.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,


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